

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1-5. canceled

6. (currently amended) A method for the diagnosis of a pathological condition in a human subject characterized by the ~~endogenous production over- or underexpression~~ of a ~~neurotrophin~~ neurotrophic factor capable of binding a human trkB receptor polypeptide, comprising:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from said human subject with a detectably labeled human trkB receptor polypeptide capable of binding said neurotrophic factor, and

(b) detecting the presence of said neurotrophic factor by monitoring the binding of said detectably labeled human trkB receptor polypeptide to said neurotrophic factor,

wherein said subject is diagnosed with said pathological condition if said neurotrophic factor is ~~present~~ over- or underexpressed in said sample.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 6 wherein said pathological condition is a malignancy.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 7 wherein the pathological condition is a tumor overexpressing said neurotrophin.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 6 wherein said biological sample is from the pancreas, and the disorder is a pancreatic disorder.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 6 wherein said pathological condition is aberrant sprouting in epilepsy.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 6 wherein said pathological condition is a psychiatric disorder.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 6 wherein said neurotrophic factor is selected from the group consisting of BDNF, NT-3, NT-4 and NT-4/5.